(b) whether it is a fact that India continues to allow illegal import of nearly 1,00,000 metric tonnes of toxic wastes annually, mostly from so called developed countries;

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to prevent environmental pollution from toxic wastes; and

(d) if not, the steps Government propose to take to prevent import of toxic wastes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT **AND** FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Import of hazardous wastes into the country for dumping is prohibited; imports for the purpose of recycling/reuse is closely regulated under the provisions of the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 along with the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 and the Customs Act, 1962.

(b) No illegal import of toxic wastes is allowed under the Rules.

(c) and (d) A number of safeguards have been put in place to prevent indiscriminate import of toxic wastes and environmental pollution. These include:-

- Import of 29 categories of highly hazardous wastes banned.
- Import of 22 identified non-ferrous metal wastes permitted only by recyclers/reprocessors registered with the Central Pollution Control Board as actual users having environmentally sound management facilities.
- Mandatory authorization of units handling and generating hazardous wastes by State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees.

Revamping of Yamuna and Rivalsar lake

†117. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 380 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd November, 2002 and state:

(a) whether any proposal for revamping of River Yamuna as well as the Rivalsar lake has been received from Himachal Pradesh Government under National River Conservation Scheme; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, when and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Ministry has received only a preliminary proposal from the Government of Himachal Pradesh in October, 2003, for inclusion of Paonta Sahib on River Yamuna under National River Conservation Plan. The State Government is required to submit Detailed Project Report with firm costs following an integrated approach with 70:30 cost sharing between the Central and the State Government. No proposal for revamping of Rivalsar lake has been received from Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Safety of wild life sanctuaries

†118. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wildlife sanctuaries throughout the country have turned out to be unsafe for human beings and animals;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these sanctuaries have been encroached a lot due to which animals come out of it and harm the life and properties of the people living in the nearby areas and sometimes they themselves meet with accidents by trucks and trains; and

(c) if so, the details of such accidents, sanctuary-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. The wildlife sanctuaries and national parks, on the contrary, provide more safety of wild animals. However, occurrence of stray incidents of chance encounters between the wild animals on one side and human beings and domestic animals on the other are not ruled out.

(b) By and large the wildlife sanctuaries and national parks have been effectively protected against encroachments. However, the damage to the life and the properties of the people living in nearby areas and the accidental deaths of wild animals by train or motor vehicles do take place due to a combination of different reasons, including, human interference in wildlife habitats.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.